

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Board

FROM: Harriet Henderson, Director
Department of Public Libraries

DATE: June 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Director's Report

Branch Activities

Aspen Hill Library Program Report by Nancy Savas: Aspen Hill Library continues to enjoy its new layout. Customers have been extremely complimentary and have expressed the idea that the library is now more welcoming and comfortable. The patron self-service holds has also met with approval with one customer remarking, "Why didn't you do this sooner?"

The Aspen Hill Garden Club has been working diligently to enhance the beauty of the Library. New garden beds now exist in front of the completed elevator shaft and to the immediate left of the front entrance. Staying within the yellow and blue theme originally planned for the Library gardens, a blue crape myrtle graces the front entrance and the myriad blue and yellow crocus, yellow daffodils, johnny-jump-ups, and violets made a wonderful show in April and May. The hostas and Siberian Iris are currently blooming and are a cheery sight.

The Aspen Hill Friends of the Library Book Discussion Group met on April 11th to discuss Annie Proulx's moral but comic romp, That Old Ace in the Hole and on May 9th to ponder Silent Spring, Rachel Carson's shattering look at widespread ecological degradation that touched off an environmental awareness that still exists today. The Book Discussion group is now on hiatus until September when they will pick up on September 12th with the Secret Life of Bees.

The Wednesday morning Conversation Club continues to enjoy success. Even though scheduled to meet for 60 minutes, the participants often stay longer, coming into the library to continue their conversations, browse and check out materials.

Pam Roberts arranged for Johanna Klema of the Legal Aid Bureau to speak on May 24th about the services of the Legal Aid Bureau and the Senior Legal Hotline. Johanna provided much

valuable information and she was asked to return by the participants of the group.

Adult displays included Hava Seltzer's Flowers and Abstract paintings in April, Antique Tools provided by Rockville's Dan Beavin in May and for June we are hosting the winners of the 13th Annual Montgomery County 2005 Amateur Photo Contest. Chinese artist Irene Liu Hou's watercolors are in the display case being enjoyed by all. Children's themes and displays included ALA's best 2004 Children's books, St. Patrick's Day, Purim, Spring, Earth Day, Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, Spring, National Library Week, Month of the Young Child and Father's Day. The Tropical Rainforest is beginning to grow...

The Friday/Saturday Born-to-Read Group co-produced and hosted by talented Children's Librarians Becky Sung and Lisa Nachman continues to reach many infants and parents. The number of participants is growing. In April, Lisa had over 70 participants alone at one BRT! Tuesday Tales, with help from Twanna Johnson, is always well attended and the 2nd and 3rd Grade Book Club, although small, remains devoted. The Children's Room continues to draw visits from local elementary schools, Headstart and the Wheaton PTA. Susan Modak, Early Reading First, continues literacy outreach with end of year visits and in April coordinated the Library's presence at "Year of the Young Child." It turned out to be an enormous job; scheduling children's staff at both Lake Forest and Wheaton Malls; collecting and distributing barrels of handouts and activities for the hundreds of children and adults who stopped by the Library's tables. Susan and Early Reading First will host "Kinderman" on June 18th for all those who wish to attend.

Becky Sung, doing school visits, has met with almost 400 elementary age children and will be seeing more the first two weeks in June. The media specialists enjoy previewing new books and Becky has the opportunity to tell the children about the upcoming Summer Reading Club programs which kicks-off on June 15th when the Maryland Science Center presents, "What's the Matter" – science as you never saw it at school. There are three film events for preschoolers scheduled for June as well an evening of magic with Mike Rose on June 22nd and Rainbow Company's production of Ferdinand the Bull, based on the book by Munro Leaf. Ages 6 and up are welcome!

The quarter provided many opportunities for staff training and development. All staff attended one of two Staff Development Days in April that focused on People First: Doing It Better. Susan Modak, Becky Sung, Janet Meyers, Lisa Nachman, and Pam Roberts trained in the new Graphics Standards as set up by the Ivy Group to help MCPL create a brand. Info and Circ staff coped extremely well with the Workflows update, learning new skills intuitively and putting them to use. Pam Roberts and Janet Meyers learned e-Books and will be sharing their knowledge with the rest of the Info staff.

Bethesda Library: The Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber offered the library a free display table at their annual Business Expo at the Hyatt Hotel in Bethesda, which Irene Briggs and Gail Gormley staffed. It was a great opportunity to publicize the Bethesda Library as downtown's new free Wi-Fi hotspot; and to tell people about the great MCPL databases. Many attendees asked about the new M Power card that had been in the press. In turn, Irene got to meet many of their corporate and non-profit neighbors and learn more about their activities and services.

Rochelle Follender reports that the busiest day of Sunday Service was on March 6, with over 800 people coming to the library. Even on Mother's Day, 525 people used the library. On the next to last Sunday, there were many activities happening in the area—the Bethesda Arts Festival; a Spring Fair at Bethesda Elementary; the Edgemoor House and Garden tour and a meeting in our meeting room. By the time staff arrived, the parking lot was quite full. However, it didn't deter customers. Many were waiting at the door when they opened, and almost 600 people visited.

Rochelle has been extremely busy juggling the Literary Symposium, a presentation on Edith Piaf and the ALA Grant on Jewish Literature. Rochelle reports that the April and May sessions of the Literary Symposium drew the largest crowd so far. The theme for the Bethesda Library's Spring Symposium was American Voices, and was led by the noted scholar, Karen Arnold. The three sessions were: March 17, 2005: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin; April 21, 2005: *Winesburg Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson; and May 19, 2005: *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson.

A presentation by Joan Keefe about the life and works of Edith Piaf was quite successful. 39 people participated, some coming from as far as Alexandria. A group of women from embassies attended. They suggested some types of French materials they would like the library to carry since the budget may now allow the purchase of materials in French, which was passed on to Kay Ecelbarger. Although most of the attendees heard about the program via flyers/posters in the library, a poster in the French Video store in Bethesda attracted at least one person.

A grandmother told Annette that she has been bringing her 12 month-old-granddaughter to Born to Read programs at several libraries since the child was three months old, and now the little girl will sit quietly looking at books while Grandma puts her feet up and has a rest. She says none of her children did that and she attributes her granddaughter's love of literature to the library programs. "Whoever trained you all did a great job," she said. This was a wonderful testament to the hard work all children's librarians have put in to enhancing programs with early literacy techniques. People do notice and it does make a difference.

Rosemary presented a Born to Read program for the Montgomery County Infant and Toddler Program participants who visited the library as a group. This was an excellent opportunity to advertise programs to a new set of parents. As usual, she explained the whole program as she went along—why she included what she did. She gave everyone a flyer with her program on it including words to the songs and rhymes and suggested web sites. She handed out the early literacy flyer concerning babies from PLA.

Annette continued to visit the Greentree Shelter childcare center each month. This is a small but appreciative audience. Most months the children are different each time, but in May a brother and sister were still at the shelter. On the previous visit the boy had been disruptive and unsettled. Although he was the oldest child there (almost six), he had the hardest time sitting still; he must have settled in because on the last visit he recognized Annette and managed to sit through the entire program, even joined in with the singing, and answered questions. At the end, he joined in with the spontaneous hugs and kisses bestowed on Annette. Annette feels that programs like this make the job important and worthwhile.

Round House Theatre Youth Onstage presented a very amusing musical play called *Musicool!* in April to a large audience. The young actors were among the most talented Annette has seen in

this troupe. Their parents were thrilled, of course. In May staff hosted an educational program on *The Magic Flute* presented by a representative of the Washington National Opera who used storytelling, audience participation in acting out scenes, and a clever craft to impart information about opera. She enhanced the taped music with her own marvelous voice and gave the children a true picture of how powerful a trained voice can be. People heard her all the way out at the information desk. There was a decent size audience for a Saturday morning on a holiday weekend, and they hope to have the Opera back again next year.

Also in May, children's staff completed their epic school visit push to booktalk and promote the Summer Reading Club. Rosemary took the lead in calling the schools and scheduling the visits. Rosemary applied what she had learned from the Book Talking presentation at the Children's Books to Know training earlier this year, as did Melida and Emma. Booklists of all books mentioned were handed out. Rosemary's experience working in schools makes her very organized and cognizant of what works well with classes. She applies educational theory to her plan.

Dianne Whitaker visited Westland Middle School jointly with Barbara Davis of Little Falls Library to book talk and promote the teen summer reading club. They reached almost the entire school in just four sessions.

All in all, the Bethesda children's staff completed 33 presentations at four elementary schools and one middle school, and reached 941 elementary school children and their teachers, and 400 middle schoolers and their teachers.

This year, Emma once again appeared with Betty Valdes on cable TV to promote the Summer Reading Club in Spanish. She took some "wild animals" from the program room to dress up the set and, while she expressed anxiety beforehand, she did a marvelous job as usual.

Fidelity Investments donated \$2,500 to the Bethesda Friends of the Library May 25. When Fidelity Investments moved its offices two blocks away on Wisconsin Ave, they decided it was an opportune time to make a donation to a community service especially valued by their clientele. They chose the Bethesda Library. A larger-than-life check was presented to Gail Gormley, Senior Librarian at the Bethesda Library, and to Kathy Weinberg, president of the Bethesda's FOL at the evening reception held to celebrate the opening of the new Center.

The Friends of Edgemoor also presented the Bethesda Chapter of the Friends of the Library a check for \$2,800 from their recent home and garden tour. These funds will go towards beautifying the landscaping on the patio.

On Saturday, June 4, the Friends of the Library, Bethesda Chapter presented an author talk by Neely Tucker, Washington Post journalist. He talked about his book, *Love in the Driest Season*. Although there was a small group attending, Mr. Tucker was charming and funny. The small audience really appreciated his talk about adopting Chipso, who was abandoned in Zimbabwe.

The Bethesda Library has been offering customers Wi-Fi for several months now. Gail Gormley, Senior Librarian for Adult Services decided to talk with several customers to find out how they learned of it's availability. The vast majority said that they figured the library would have it and so they just came with their laptops. It's been rare for any customers to ask for assistance with their equipment. What they do ask is "where in the building is the signal the

strongest?” They were a glad to find out that the signal can be picked up in the main meeting room.

It is clear that Wi-Fi is a valued service that requires little from the library to provide. It is good to have something of particular value to offer this customer group (just from observation: more men than women, average age 30-40).

Chevy Chase. The Audubon Society presented a program of stories in April for elementary age children with 20 attendees. The new Scholastic DVDs based on picture books are being reviewed, and a Summer Preschool Program using the new DVDs has been set up. The staff is learning how to use the projection system and DVD player and looking at different media carts to use with the new equipment. The last Great Books meeting for the season was held on May 11. About 17 participants discussed PARADISE LOST. The group has decided on next year's reading list and flyers are on display at the Info Desk. Barbara Shansby attended the Paddington Square (HOC Housing) Community Fair. It was the first time for the Chevy Chase Library to participate in this event. As a result staff is planning a summer Reading Buddies program with Paddington Square for June and July visits.

Library Assistant Supervisor Mark Cowherd, Librarian II Information Services Paula Gartman and Library Manager Kathie Meizner participated as library representatives at the Hyatt Classic's 1st annual Community Day. A set designer/builder from Round House theatre helped to create the illusion of a mini-Connecticut Avenue in the long hall of the building. The three staff members saw many customers and former customers and got to talk with small business people from the area (Sunoco, Lemon Twist, Parkway Cleaners and Starbuck's).

Correctional Facility (MCCF): The updated schedule for rotation of inmate housing units to the library includes several changes, including moving one housing unit to a morning time to provide an additional biweekly evening law library to benefit inmate workers and students. Staff communication included counselors and officers.

Corrections Library Manager Joan Deacon has trained an excellent cadre of substitutes; James Stewart, Denise Habib, Bethany Omerso, Beth Miller, and Margarita Kersey. Since recruiting and training them, the library manager can take leave with no loss of service hours.

The Corrections Library has migrated to the new version of Westlaw, which is web-based and more user-friendly in terms of language and headings within sections. It also features more annotations, including federal law along with Maryland. This represents a definite advantage to staff when working with larger numbers of federal inmates. Thanks to Mary Ellen Icaza for her assistance with preliminary discussions with the West customer service staff. West has also provided some on-site training for Library Associate Sabine Rossi.

Joan presented some training for Correctional officers during shift change assemblies, covering topics such as general library services, frequently asked questions, and damaged library books. She has collected a boxful of damaged books, and used them as a “show and tell” of inmate attempts to steal / destroy library materials, noting that the box-full represented \$400+ of taxpayer money. Joan also thanked officers for all their assistance with getting inmates to and

from the library, and ended the presentation with a "Library quiz – test your knowledge!" Response has been very positive. Joan was able to document these incidents of book destruction, and the inmates received disciplinary action. Usually just a few examples are needed to get the word out to the inmate population. Joan was also careful to commend the actions of these officers to their supervisors.

Manager Joan Deacon gathered some information on Rosetta Stone from Mary Ellen Icaza, as well as some public library staff, pursuant to discussion at the MCCF management team regarding additional computers that are being made available in inmate housing units. The Correctional Library Advisory Committee continue to be interested in literacy tutoring for inmates and suggested this as a possible resource. No decision has been made to date.

Joan took a selection of books to the Community Re-entry class, on the invitation of the teacher, and presented brief book talks to the inmates. She had a very good response to the program, and was pleased that the items were checked out by the inmates. Joan was subpoenaed by the defense attorney of an inmate worker, who requested that she present testimony regarding his work performance at his sentencing hearing. Although not standard procedure, Joan was more than happy to comply for this individual, who had truly been an asset to the library service.

Gang training was made available to the Correctional Library Advisory Committee, thanks to Warden Green, and it was so well received that Library Board liaison Reynolds suggested that it be made available to a larger audience. It was offered at Twinbrook Library on June 8, and hopefully raised community awareness of gang activity, signs and graffiti. Joan commended the work of this officer, who presented a very interesting and informative program.

Damascus: Library Manager Karen Miller nominated Library Assistant Supervisor Joyce Edwards for an award given by the Damascus SCAT (School Community Action Team) for her outstanding service to community volunteers, especially volunteers with special needs, Community Service Hours, Scouts, etc. She received the Starfish Award at the April 21st SCAT/Damascus Community Alliance Breakfast Meeting.

During the month of April volunteer Dave Hillman taught an introductory, hands-on Internet class called "Finding Things on the Web" which 6 people attended. He also presented a lecture-style class, "Putting Things on the Web: Creating Your Own Web Page", which had 8 attendees.

On March 26, 2005 the new Damascus Recreation Center had a daylong Easter/Spring celebration at the Center. 30 children and 20 adults attended a "Spring" storytime by Virginia Krute (along with two teachers). Virginia shared *Runaway Rabbit* by Ron Maris and *Blue Rabbit and Friends* by Christopher Wormell. Virginia handed out bookmarks and the Damascus Library Calendar of Events to the attendees.

On April 16, to celebrate *National Library Week*, the library hosted a **Renaissance Faire** put on by members of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Anyone arriving at the Library that day must have done a double take. There was a medieval tent pitched out by the parking lot, costumed participants wandering around and fighting on a grassy knoll. The Auditorium was filled with demonstration tables; a favorite of kids and adults alike was the opportunity to try on

clothes from that era. An estimated 175 people attended. The Friends of the Library, Damascus Chapter, purchased items for special giveaways, including some Fisher-Price Knights and Ladies toys, Lord of the Rings *Rings* and *Monopoly* games, and several medieval-themed books. Then a clown happened in, looking for some books on making balloon creatures. As he was checking them out some nearby children drew him into the festivities. He ended up using some of his newly learned balloon sculpture skills.

Head of Children's Services Amy Alapati received a compliment while she was exercising one day in April. Another member approached her and said that her daughter used to attend Amy's Story Time when she was little, and they had such fond memories of that experience. The mother went on to say that her daughter is now in high school, and just received several trophies for public speaking in the Montgomery County Forensics League Honors Tournament, March 21-22, 2005. According to the mom, the daughter was inspired and influenced by attending library storytime at Damascus when she was a preschooler. One of her categories was even Children's Literature! The mom said she came in 2nd in that category.

On May 24th Amy Alapati and Silver Spring Head of Children's Services Judy Furash taped a 30-minute segment about Summer Reading for Betty Valdes' show "Que Pasa?"

The Fred Stork Duo (guitars) performed in the lobby of the building for an hour around lunchtime on Saturday, May 28. The program interspersed original songs with anecdotes from Mr. Stork's life and world travels. 92-year-old Mr. Stork is local and has been written up in several local papers for his long lifetime of captured experiences. Approximately 10 people stayed to enjoy the entire concert. Over the course of the hour, another 15-20 customers paused to listen during their library visit.

On May 31, Johanna Klema, an attorney from the non-profit Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland gave a presentation on general legal issues, aimed toward senior citizens. Since there were only 2 attendees, the program became a question-and-answer session so that both participants could more fully discuss their particular concerns. Ms. Klema is returning for a second program in June.

Damascus Community Garden Club donated plant hangers and hanging baskets of flowers to beautify the entrance to the building. They then weeded and mulched several of the plant beds.

Davis: In the annals of how libraries are important in people's lives in ways we often are unaware of, Davis staff discovered that the library has played a significant role in the success of a Jeopardy champion. Steve Newman of Rockville participated in the recent Tournament of Champions on Jeopardy, making it through the second round. He was originally champion in 1991, becoming one of the top ten winners at the time. Steve was in the library studying for the opening round of the tournament when he hinted to a librarian that it would be a good idea to watch the upcoming Jeopardy show. Then he recounted how he had been coming to the Davis Library for 20 years studying for his contests. Staff are proud to have helped a champion on his way.

Davis Library staff won first prize “Most Artistic Overall” in the library system’s book display contest. The awards were announced on Staff Development Day. Davis won for three displays: “African-American Writers through the Ages” by Crystal Smith and “Library Lovers Month” and “Unfortunate Events for Grown-Ups” by Rita Tull.

The Davis Adult Book Discussion Group continues its popularity. On March 16, 45 people attended for a discussion of the phenomenally popular *The Kite Runner* led by Kay Bowman. Rita Tull led the April discussion of *A Very Long Engagement*, a French novel of World War I. Thirty one people attended. The May 18th book discussion was Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America* led by Rita Tull, with 39 attending.

The Davis Library’s new Media Center is now a reality. After much careful planning and hard work by Masako Doi, the new furniture has been installed, materials shelved in order and new signs hung. The CD collection has been labeled with clear, easy-to-read call numbers, and shelf signs alert customers to the genre of music represented by each number. The Reference collection has been shifted so that the former reference area is now clearly divided in two, one side being the media center. This arrangement of materials in distinct spaces will also contribute to ease of use of customers. Many volunteers and staff worked with Masako to make this project a success. The new Media Center was paid for by the local Friends of the Davis Library and staff graciously thanks them for their support.

The popular program of the Master Gardeners from University of Maryland Co-operative Extension Service began again in April. Sessions are held each Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Davis Library welcomes four new staff members. Hai-Chu (Grace) Wang, Bethany Omerso and Xiax (Michelle) Tan all joined the circulation staff. We also welcome Jan McHenry, newly promoted Librarian II, who will begin work on June 12. It’s wonderful to be getting all vacancies filled.

Rosemary Panas has reorganized the paperback collection to make Romances easier to organize. She made fresh signage for the paperback collection to replace old, tired looking signs. The Reading List collection was thoroughly weeded, the overflow section in the workroom reorganized and a Reading List order was placed. Renee Blumenkrantz has continued to focus on Early Literacy Skills. Susan Hefter continues to call schools for community art work to display in the Children’s Room. Susan continues to have a great rapport with the Scotland Community. As of mid June, she will have prepared and delivered 17 story times this year. Rita Tull and Crystal Smith have been working on plans for our first YA program to be held in June. Crystal will be doing the program and Rita has helped with planning and publicity. The theme is “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” to tie in with the release of the new movie. Crystal is working with Diane Whitaker of Bethesda who is planning a similar program, and she will be assisting at the Bethesda program which is scheduled ahead of the Davis program.

Linda Berg has been working with Susan Cohen and Kit Bloom to plan a pilot program in October for people with low vision. Linda is continuing her partnership with the YMCA for parenting programs throughout the year, and she is currently booking the rooms.

Plans are well underway for the Third Annual Davis Community Day scheduled for Saturday, June 18. They will have Homer and the Big Train Team, a story time in Spanish, a local children's talent show, some music from Walter Johnson High School, balloons, face painting and much more for the whole family. They will also be dedicating a tree in memory of Lewis Servier, one of the Master Gardeners, who passed away last year.

Fairland: Library Manager Mildred Nance represented the branch on May 7th (and was a featured speaker) at the unveiling of the Art in Public Places sculpture now exhibited on the Fairland "campus". This art project, sponsored by the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council, provided an opportunity for the Fairland Library, Fairland Recreation Center and both advisory committees to find a suitable art project to enhance the "Fairland" campus area. The arts committee chose the entry submitted last September by Deidre Saunders. The artwork is a stylized tower and bench, named "Inspiration." It was completed in late fall but officially unveiled in a ceremony held before the start of the Second Annual Eastern Regional Student Art Exhibition in the Rec Center. The MCPL logo appeared on the program along with logos of the Arts Council and the Recreation Department. At the art exhibition, Fairland staff managed the "Kid's Gallery" pre-art show, where children could create their own art piece as they viewed art created by middle and high school students from local schools. This was the first time the library partnered with the recreation center on the Art Exhibition program.

The volunteer appreciation reception took place on April 16th. The Blake String Quartet played music and was a tremendous hit. Everyone enjoyed the gifts, food and networking with other volunteers. During the program special recognition was provided for Dr. Alberta French, who will retire as Conversation Club volunteer in-charge at the end of the season in June.

Staff manned the Fairland booth at the annual county KIDSFEST held on Sunday, May 22nd at Columbia Park. Summer Reading flyers and two craft activities at the table-under-the-tent-top created a library outreach opportunity where many of the approximately one thousand children stopped to make a bookmark, have a photo opportunity with Sneaks or create a Popsicle stick puzzle. Many of the puzzles made by the children sported library themes about reading such as "I love reading", "reading rocks" and "reading is cool"! Two teenage boys took turns wearing the Sneaks costume, which had been enhanced with a current Summer Reading t-shirt and the new library logo on its back.

Gaithersburg: Lillian Snyder, Linda Gimourginas, and Ann Stillman continued to meet with various community groups, including Rita Valenzuela of the Ed Bohrer Resource Center and Maribel de la Cruz and Teresa Wright, who are Parent/Community Coordinators with MCPS. All of these women are heavily involved with the Latino community in Gaithersburg and provide a lot of insight into what needs/services the Latino population has presently, what they do not have and what future needs might be addressed. Many issues for this particular community group were discussed, as well as how they might work together on programs and/or services.

Ann Stillman attended a meeting of the Multicultural Committee for the City of Gaithersburg. Besides meeting various committee members, one of the most notable issues presented was that most city committees suffer from a lack of diversity, despite the efforts of the Multicultural Committee to try to get people of diverse backgrounds to join these committees.

Thanks to the generosity of the Gaithersburg Friends Lillian Snyder and Carol Steele continue the task of remodeling and re-decorating the staff lounge. They now have a sofa, new chairs and tables. The area was decluttered and cleaned before the remodeling began. A new refrigerator was donated to the Library to replace the old inadequate appliance.

Staff are planning and preparing for the busy summer ahead. Several adult librarians contributed to the successful merging of Children's hardback and paperback fiction titles. Completion of this large project before the end of the school year was a priority. Thanks to the time and energy contributed by a cross-section of staff members, it was finished well ahead of schedule. The most recent milestone toward a smoothly-running summer was the refurbishing of the "path" that leads customers to the high school reading list area. This was accomplished by our Agency Manager Lillian Snyder making several trips on a ladder to the dusty ceiling area.

Gaithersburg staff moved, cleaned, washed, and organized their way through the several days that were set aside for cleanup of workroom and office areas. Also involved were numerous trips to the dumpster/recycling bins with full tubs, but the nice weather made it (almost) fun.

The "Reading Garden" created last year by the Friends has begun to do justice to its name. The plants have taken hold and the area is becoming very appealing, with one evergreen beginning to soften the view of the air conditioning units and some flowering shrubs adding lovely color. The garden can be enjoyed by staff looking out from our windows as well as by those in the garden.

In addition to the merging of children's fiction mentioned above, improvements have been made in the adult collection. An attractive area to shelve adult graphic novels has been carved out, and the Young Adult (YA) graphic section is getting a new display rack. The YA taped books/cd books are now identified with labels, making them easier to locate. Thanks to Irene Liu for working her way through many pages of SIRSI records to locate or place holds on these items in order to trap them for processing.

Theft, especially of DVDs, seems to be on the rise. Several measures are being tested to deal with this problem, since staff and public agree they would not welcome the time-consuming process involved with checking out sequestered DVDs.

The transition to a less labor-intensive Language Lab is underway. Previously registered students can continue to use the lab at those times it is not staffed. New students can sign up for an introductory session whenever a volunteer is scheduled.

Wireless access has been very popular. This new group of users needed electrical outlets and tables for their laptops. After a great deal of research by George Laure, staff purchased a table which provides space for three laptop users at a time. George Laure attached a power source to the table to solve the problem of plug-in and cords all over the floor.

During the month of April the Agency Manager, LAS and Senior Librarians attended a meeting in Frederick on the “Trends Affecting the Libraries”. The meeting focus was the future of the Library.

Gaithersburg Reading Friends makes a weekly appearance to listen and read to reading learners. This program is highly valued by young children who read and listen, their parents and the youth who eagerly travel from the Community Center to volunteer.

Children’s staff has been gearing up for the onslaught of summer reading participants. They have recruited and interviewed 40 volunteers to help sign up and talk to kids about this year’s program freeing up our librarians to help children and parents find the materials and information they need. They have visited schools to explain the program and booktalk books appropriate for their age groups.

Noel Tavano and Vivian Narine co-produce the pre-teen Book Club, which is small but growing. Theresa Kolacek hosts middle elementary age readers in her Book Club, which showed a big increase in attendance toward the end of the period, and Jan Derry has assumed responsibility for the youngest readers in the grade one and two Book Club, which is also experiencing an upsurge in attendance.

The last day of Sunday service was May 22, 2005. With a few exceptions, most notably printer problems and Pharos occasionally going down, Sundays proceeded well this quarter. They continued to have very busy days, with over 1,000 on the people counter most Sundays. Computer usage continued to be in very high demand and there was a line of about 5-10 people at the registration terminal all day. The staff on Sundays was very dependable and hard-working and provided Gaithersburg library users with excellent service. Lillian Snyder reports that they feel fortunate that all of the Circulation staff and most of the Information staff have indicated that they want to return to Gaithersburg on Sundays next year. Three of the substitute staff members got merit positions, but only one is not returning.

Germantown: Germantown Library hosted the Pakistani Cultural Program as part of the Department’s celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Meeting Room A was decorated with gleaming silks, woven treasures, displays of hand sculpted crafts and pictures introducing the peoples of this region and country. A slide show, dance performance and music rounded out the event that also offered food, Henna painting and a chance to mingle and talk. Over 100 people attended, many of them members of the Pakistani community and regular customers of the Germantown Library. Thanks to Yuli Estler for bringing this program to Germantown.

Peggy Hansen has proven her flexibility and stamina by using a different technique every time she visited Germantown elementary schools to introduce the summer reading – this in response to the varying needs of the schools. At Matsunaga Elementary, which is adopting DPL’s Summer Reading as its summer reading program, she spoke to each and every class. At Germantown and Waters Landing Elementaries, she spoke at three different awards assemblies for children and parents. Clopper Mill Elementary invited Peggy to give five minute talks at children’s lunch breaks.

Peggy Hansen and Library Manager Maria Pedak-Kari set up a Germantown Library/Summer Reading display at Family Services' Musiganza festival at Black Rock Art Center on June 4. Over 150 children signed up for the reading program, booklists and Friends brochures were distributed and hundreds of questions about the new library were answered such as "When will it open?" and "will you bring back the Born To Read programs?"

Patricia Reynolds and Rebecca Rector coordinated the scheduling and training of over 52 summer reading volunteers. An equal number of students were turned away or directed to other libraries after reaching the maximum number of applicants. This has become one of the most popular programs for getting student service learning credits and having a focused summer activity!

Children's staff offered Toddler programs for ages 18-36 month olds on Thursdays and Saturdays through April. Attendance ranged from 80-120 in Meeting Room A because the group outgrew the Discovery Center.

Kate McCarthy Bond hosted a visit in with the "Read Together USA" 2nd grade class from Cedar Grove Elementary. Maria Pedak-Kari read and spoke to one of the Cedar Grove Elementary 4th grade classes on April 13, at their PTA "Read Aloud Day."

The Rock Creek Republican Women's Club donated two books to the collection in honor of Mamie Eisenhower. Staff selected two picture books, which one of their members from Damascus, Jean Eden, will be presenting to the Library Manager on June 11.

Senator Rob Garagiola kept staff informed about the progress of State Bill 421 to increase state funding for public libraries. They were all glad to see it signed by the Governor.

Staff spent a lot of time reviewing building, furniture, and shelving plans for the new library. Staff did a marvelous job of dropping everything to meet deadlines. Staff appreciated the support from Barbara Norland and Shri Gondhalekar from the Design Section of DPWT. Staff is focusing forward on the move, the cleaning, the needs, the expectations and planning for all this. Bethesda staff, Irene Briggs and Gail Gormley, have shared their insights. They will join Rockville staff for joint discussion and planning. Staff will also be visiting other libraries with strong art collections to glean what we could add as neighbors to Black Rock.

New Germantown Library: The Germantown Library construction is also still on schedule with the completion date expected to be October 20, 2005. Photographs on the Library Department's webpage are updated monthly and show the construction progress. The roof is being completed, the outside block walls are up, the contractors are putting on the brick, and the plumbing and electrical work under the slab is done. It is very exciting to see the changes as work progresses.

The furniture order has been finalized and sent to Procurement. Staff is busy planning the impending move.

Kensington Park. In April, children's staff introduced a new Monday storytime program, which uses art and crafts as integral components. Called "Morning Out, Stories and Fun," the last offering had approximately forty-four (44) persons in attendance. Kudos go to the Children's staff for innovative ways in making the Storytime sessions interesting and appealing to our customers.

As part of the Music in the Library offerings, the Rock Creek Chamber Players performed at the Kensington Park Library on Monday, April 4, 2005. This performance was held in the meeting room where the group performed classical pieces for strings. Approximately twenty-five persons attended this performance.

Local author Cathy D. Knepper discussed her most recent work, "**DEAR MRS. ROOSEVELT: LETTERS TO ELEANOR ROOSEVELT THROUGH DEPRESSION AND WAR,**" on Saturday, April 16, 2005. About twenty-five persons attended this program.

Library Manager Ken Lewis and Head of Children's Services Linda Swanson visited the Ken-Gar Center on June 7th and talked about the Library and the Summer Reading program and gave a few book talks. The **Spark** tutoring program, which is done with some partnership from the Kensington Park Library and the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, is run out of the Ken Gar Center. There were about 50 people in the audience.

The annual Teddy Bear Picnic was held on Saturday June 4. Preschoolers were treated to a picnic on the lawn with a film program and juice and cookies donated from Giant. Fifty-two children attended.

The branch sponsored two Chinese calligraphy programs on Saturday, May 21. Thanks to staff member Helen Sun, a famous **Chinese Calligrapher** was the featured presenter. The calligrapher/artist first did a program for adults, where he explained the process of pen brush painting, with a demonstration. This was also repeated for the Children's program, where his hands-on demonstration was done before 37 children and their parents. The program was featured on the front page of the Kensington Gazette and in Chinese newspapers.

The branch will partner with Viers Mill Elementary School on this year's Linkages program. Two meetings with the Linkages supervisor has streamlined the program and improved elements from last year. The programs will be held primarily at Viers Mill Elementary School, with a visit to Kensington Park one evening. Library staff will attend and help with 3 of the programs at Viers Mill Elementary School. This is the first year that the branch will not have to provide or train volunteers for the program.

Little Falls. The Springfield Garden Club sponsored a Volunteer Family Weekend to cleanup the yard property around the library on Saturday, May 7th. They contacted a local Boy Scout Troup along with several other neighbors to assist them. They planted some bushes and ground cover, cleaned the yard, trimmed bushes, and raked and swept around the parking lot.

Little Falls is now sponsoring two new programs: a Scrabble Club for children up to 18 years old that meets on Mondays after school and a poetry workshop hosted by circulation substitute

Robin Pachtman on the first Saturday of the month. A volunteer oversees the Scrabble club and the library provides light refreshments and the meeting

Long Branch: The parenting workshops for Hispanic parents and caregivers successfully completed their second round of sessions. These workshops proved to be a highly effective partnership with the Takoma Park Family Resource Center and the TESS Center.

Sue Unger planned a tea and invited a variety of community resource people to learn about the Library's databases, Learning Express and Rosetta Stone. Though actual attendance was not as high as expected, Sue's marketing led to additional outreach to both Blair High School and Eastern Middle School staff.

Maria Burguera represented the Library at the Parks and Recreation Department's Family Unity Day. She had her own "story telling" tent.

The Girl Scouts ended their year with an investiture ceremony for their new participants. Maria Burguera attended on the Library's behalf.

The Long Branch Task Force presented their Third Annual Report to the community highlighting recommendations for improvement. County Executive Duncan and Councilmen Perez and Leventhal voiced their support of the recommendations. Copies are available in the Library for the community.

Little Falls Library: The Springfield Garden Club sponsored a Volunteer Family Weekend to cleanup the yard property around the library on Sat. May 7th. They contacted a local Boy Scout troupe along with several other neighbors to assist them. They planted some bushes and ground cover, cleaned the yard, trimmed bushes, and raked and swept around the parking lot.

Little Falls is now sponsoring two new programs: a Scrabble Club for children up to 18 years old that meets on Mondays after school and a poetry workshop hosted by circulation substitute Robin Pachtman on the first Sat. of the month. A volunteer oversees the Scrabble club and the library provides light refreshments and the meeting room. Turnout is small right now, but staff hopes that it grows as kids learn about it. The poetry workshop is open to the public and the first meeting was held in May – to coincide with National Poetry Month.

The Friends of Little Falls sponsored the grand opening of the newly renovated Children's Room on Saturday April 16th. Many County dignitaries, including Howard Denis, Susan Lee, Brian Frosh, Harriet Henderson, and Nancy Floreen, attended to read stories to over 100 children and their parents. Casey, that Mudville bum, made a special appearance.

Staff provided volunteers with an Appreciation Breakfast on Monday, April 18th. Six of the ten regular volunteers attended. Each one got a potted plant and a card to take home. County Security agreed to secure the Little Falls parking lot on Tuesday morning, June 14 during graduation ceremonies at the Westland Middle School.

Library Manager Keith Fleeman and HHS Aging and Disability Services staff members Meg Kotler and Susan Keane gave the PowerPoint presentation of *Senior Friendly Libraries in Montgomery County* to a group of twenty seniors at the Eastern County Recreation Center on Tuesday, June 7. This is the first “outside” presentation the three have made with more planned for the fall.

Noyes. Two special event programs were held in April. Linda O’Reilly, a parent who uses the library and has taught music classes, presented a music and craft program for children three and older. 10 children were registered for each session.

Elena Hutchinson presented a child care workshop at Chevy Chase Library on using picture books to help children discuss feelings. Janet Bock presented a childcare workshop at Long Branch on circle time activities.

The library celebrated the Kensington Literary Festival on April 23rd by handing out pencils to all the children who came to the library that day.

The branch was featured again in the April 21 edition of the Washington Post in the *Montgomery County Guide* section called “You Haven’t Lived Here if You Haven’t . . .”

Children who are customers at Noyes Library provide enchanting displays for the display case at Noyes, selecting books from the shelves to go with the themes of their treasured collection of toys and memorabilia. The name and photo of the young collector is usually featured on the display case. This year there were displays from eight children: *Legos* in October, *Dinosaurs* in November, *Horses* in December and in May, *Pinocchio* in January, Williamsburg, VA in February, *Bionicles* in March, and *Japan* in April.

The branch celebrated Noyes History Night on May 5th, which featured a program presented by the Historical Society of Kensington. Both the LAC and the Noyes Foundation provided refreshments for the evening. The program was a wonderful opportunity to meet long-time neighbors of the library and members of the Kensington Historical Society, and to hear about the library’s history in the context of the developing character of Kensington.

Olney. To celebrate the Month of the Young Child, Emilie Crown from the Montgomery County CPS program and automotive dealership volunteer, Steve McHenry, brought Montgomery County’s car seat check van to the Olney Library on April 22. Despite the rainy weather, 13 families took advantage of the service and within 4 hours, Emile and Steve had checked 17 car seats! Steve and Emilie spent an hour with each customer, assuring that car seats were installed correctly in each vehicle. Several customers commented on how nice it was to have this service available locally at the Library. While staff had hoped to make the event a quarterly program, funding for the car seat inspection van project had been removed from the Montgomery County budget, so the library will be unable to offer it again.

Olney’s youngsters had a special opportunity to celebrate Earth Day on Monday April 11 when Sandy August from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission’s Environmental Group presented a program designed to acquaint children with the Patuxent Watershed. The afternoon

session, designed for preschoolers, attracted an audience of 30 children. Later in the evening 18 elementary school age children had their turn to enjoy a hands-on program that included stories, music, demonstrations and crafts designed to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards.

On Tuesday evening May 24, the Washington Opera company presented a program for 39 elementary school students and their families. Led by Washington National Opera Teaching Artists, the program introduced families to the story and music of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*). Participants then explored how music communicates plot, character and emotion through hands-on crafts and creative music activities.

On Sunday April 17, the Olney community had the opportunity to learn more about the culture and traditional music of Slovenia as the Slovenian Women's Union of America and their children's chorus brought traditional music, folktales, and holiday traditions to the Library. As a special treat, the children's chorus, accompanied by traditional accordion music, paraded through the library displaying their traditional costumes. Twenty people enjoyed the formal program in the meeting room, but more than thirty watched the "parade."

Thanks to the generosity of the local Friends group, the Olney Community was treated to a performance by the Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. Entitled, "Rufus," the puppet show was designed to introduce the concepts of individuality and brotherhood to 3 to 8 year old children. More than 150 people gathered on the shady lawn outside the Olney Swim Center to enjoy the Saturday May 21 afternoon performance.

Dressed in Summer Reading green, five current and former Olney staff members (Mary Jane Heinbuch, Arlene Means, Angie Frierson-Thigpen, Corey Brown, and Rueyfen Harmon) and Silver Spring Library Assistant II Adam Greene driving the Mobile Services Van spent a special Sunday May 22 afternoon sharing treats and library news with the community. Over 1000 people lined the streets to watch the parade. An added bonus: The library entry won third place in the motorized division. The winning trophy is currently on display at the Circulation Desk.

Fourteen volunteers (including two student service-learning regulars) attended the volunteer appreciation reception on April 21. Volunteer Coordinator Jan McHenry decorated the large meeting room like a tearoom with tartan table clothes and bouquets of helium balloons with the slogan "Volunteers are Tea-riffic" were tied to the decorative teapots set on each table. All the volunteers received special gifts: Adults a decorated ceramic mug and a package of Tea-riffic Treats and Students a gift certificate to the local ice cream hangout, Coldstone Creamery. Receiving special recognition were adult volunteers Edna Wiggins and Barbara Gunn. During 2004, Barbara had volunteered the most hours and Edna had volunteered in the greatest variety of projects. (Internet sign up, Conversation Club and Internet instruction) The two 2004 Volunteer of the Year award winners received a specially engraved silver picture frame.

Acting Library Manager Barbara McClayton had several meetings with Naomi Milliner about the memorial garden Ms. Millner would like to have planted near the Library in memory of her young son, who was born with a number of birth defects and died early in childhood. The Library was one of his favorite places. Current plans for the garden include stepping stones with

quotes from the Margaret Wise Brown Book, GOOD NIGHT MOON, and a small bench. A landscape designer has looked at possible locations and is preparing a sketch for staff and administration review.

Daria Parry will join the Olney Library as the new Library Manager effective July 25. Daria is currently Director of the Bates Technical College in Tacoma, Washington. Previously she worked at the Eugene Public Library in Eugene Oregon as the Community Access and Facilities Manager, as the Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator for the Washoe County Library System in Reno Nevada, and as Manager of the Central Library, branch manager, and youth services librarian in the Lee County Library System in Fort Myers, Florida. She has worked in libraries for 17 years. She has a Masters in Library Science from the University of South Florida and a BA in English from the University of Rhode Island.

Poolesville: The Poolesville Library Advisory Committee had their annual poster contest this spring. One family produced three winners. Senator Rob Garagiola sent special certificates to be presented to the six elementary age winners. This year's theme was "My Favorite Fantasy, Magic, or Adventure Story." Three levels of cash prizes were available to Kindergarten to fifth grade. Fifty dollar for first prize, \$25 for second prize and a \$10 certificate to Borders were given. Several of the posters were quite elaborate, and voting was difficult.

On Thursday, May 26th, Agency Manager, Mark Gochnour, went to a Poolesville Elementary School event and worked with School Media Specialist Sharon Black at their spring Scholastic Book Fair and Ice Cream Social. Sharon set up a table at the entrance to the school and all who entered were greeted and asked if they had MCPL library cards. If they did not and were interested, Mark issued them a M-Power card after they filled out a paper application. Mark gave out more than 20 cards, and parents and children saw visible evidence of cooperation between the school and the public library. Mark used that evening to inform many parents and children about Montgomery County Public Library (MCPL) - regarding use of M-Power cards, email notification and other services available. The Media Specialist has arranged to have the school's students visit the Poolesville Library for special outings on three specific dates this summer.

Catherine McDaniel, Library Assistant I and Volunteer Coordinator and the rest of the staff at the Poolesville Library celebrated their volunteers at a party May 16th. Poolesville's volunteers enjoyed a performance by two local residents Dominique Agnew and Becky Ross of Violinsity. This year's gift was a desk set (pen and calculator) and the party was well received by the volunteers. They are real asset to the Poolesville Library and the library staff appreciates the funding to honor them from the Friends of the Library.

Local handyman, Harrison Dutton built a beautiful angled bookshelf for the children's area. It matches the wood and stain of the current book shelving, and it stands at the end of the children's nonfiction shelving. It will be used to display seasonal materials and summer reading items and will replace a book cart that served that function. Mark has decided the adult collection needs one for a Librarian's Choice display, and Mr. Dutton is willing to make it.

In May, Marco Scappa went to Noyes for the Early Literacy training by Janet Bock on school readiness, early literacy and language to increase his programming skills and prepare him to present programs in the fall.

In April, Michelle Seltzer did her first child care workshop on “New Books and How to Use Them” pairing up with Judy Furash, Librarian II at Wheaton. She reported that it was a good experience all around.

Poolesville held some special programs this quarter, including the Roundhouse Theater’s Youth on Stage and Youth on Tour. The Washington Opera provided the library with a story time for preschoolers. The third annual live “Ducks ‘N Stuff” program for preschoolers whereby the children learned about baby chicks and ducklings. The presenters allowed the children to pet the animals at the end of the program.

Potomac Library Programming Highlights by Nancy Benner: Children’s Programming Highlights for April-June 2005:

SRC 2005: Potomac launched a “soft opening” of Summer Reading Club 2005 on June 1, 2005. As of mid-June, Over 250 children have registered for SRC at Potomac Library. In addition, three information staff members, including newly hired Lisa Clarke, our Helena Luk and Lindsey Hundt visited Potomac Elementary, Bells Mill Elementary, Beverly Farms Elementary and distributed Summer Reading flyers to St. Francis School and Cold Spring Elementary School. The children’s information staff explained the Summer Reading Program to over 700 children between June 1 and June 14th. Fred Bowen, a local sports book author, was our kick-off performer on June 15. Discussing the history of baseball, Mr. Bowen discussed his books, displayed and discussed his baseball realia and generally talked sports to a group of about 50 adults and children. Typical of a Potomac audience, this group was multi-ethnic and multi-generational. Weekly movies commence at the end of June when we will also host the K.D. Puppets, a marionette troupe, who will perform “Cinderella.”

Saturday Morning Family Storytime: Saturday morning programming is now a mainstay at Potomac Library thanks to the extraordinary talents of Laura Maramba. A gifted programmer, Laura is able to introduce various genres of literature, educate and entertain all ages and incorporate early literacy pointers all at the same time. Family storytime draws all ages – the elderly with their grandchildren, dads with their babies, etc. -- and all cultures, including many for whom English is not a primary language in the home.

Cuddle-Ups: Laura is equally sensitive to the needs and attention span of toddlers. Her cuddle up programs are always filled to capacity. In this quarter, she focused on birds using My Spring Robin by Ann Rockwell as her theme. To encourage participation, Laura distributes individual board books and incorporates dialogic reading techniques (such as pointing to the words she is reading and asking open-ended questions) as the group reads together. Teaching tools presented included colors, sizes and counting.

Time for Twos: Helena conducted theme based two-year old programs using books about bugs. Using Eric Carle’s insect picture books, she expanded on this theme with songs, rhymes,

fingerplays using early literacy initiative techniques such as repetition, pointing, talking to parents and open-ended questioning.

Baby Time: Routinely 12-18 parents with their babies visit the monthly Potomac Library baby programs. This is the perfect size because it allows individual language interaction with each baby and gives the librarians a chance to talk to each parent about language acquisition. We encourage social interaction between the babies and among the parents, allowing time at the end of each program for play and conversation. By repeating our message about early brain development, we hope to convey the important message about reading to and with babies to encourage language acquisition.

Visits-In: Continuing its long-standing tradition of welcoming “visits in” from local preschools, Potomac Library enjoyed visits from Georgetown Hill School and St. Francis Episcopal School.

Special Music Events: Organized by former Potomac children’s librarian Sue Shaw, now a member of the Potomac LAC, the Potomac FOL/LAC will sponsored 2 family music events between March and June of 2005. The two programs held in this quarter were:

May 7: North of Washington Quintet, Classical Chamber Ensemble

June 4: NIH Chamber Singers, an a cappella chorus

These well-attended (50-65 people per performance) free programs were designed for families but were predominantly attended by adults.

Quince Orchard Library Program Report by Cindy Counihan: Book Discussions: Adults: The branch’s book discussion groups continued to be active through the spring. The South Asian book discussion choice in April was Christina Lamb’s book *Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan*. The June choice was *The Tiger Ladies: A Memoir of Kashmir* by Sudha Koul. The Bilingual Spanish/English group chose *Mujeres del siglo XX* by Martha Robles for April and in May the popular *La casa de los espíritus* by Isabel Allende. In June they read *Las cinco personas que encontraras en el cielo (The Five People You Meet in Heaven)* by Mitch Albom. Selections for the spring Chinese book discussions were *Yen Chuan Ch’en Ssu (Close the Book and Meditate)* by Yu Ch’iu-yu; *Xing Fu Hao Lie Che (Joy Express Train)* by Chan Manjuan; and *Lin Huiyin Wen Ji (Selections of Lin Huiyin)*.

The Quince Orchard Adult Service Librarians, Mimi Bolotin, Micheline Fleurant, and Kathy Gower, led the Librarian’s Choice group in discussions of *Embers* by Sandor Marai; *The Book of Salt*, by Monique Truong, and *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad. The African-American discussion group read *The Full Matilda* by David Haynes in April. The following month they read *The Death of Innocence* by Mamie Till-Mobley. Their selection for June was *The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat.

Returning in June for a second year is the summer-only ESL book discussion group, hosted by volunteer Nina Liakos, a professor at the University of Maryland’s English Language Institute. The group will meet weekly in June to discuss the popular novel *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Last year the group was so enthusiastic that Nina selected a second book and continued the program another month.

Book Discussions: Children: Heather Wright chose *Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman, *Driver's Ed* by Caroline Cooney, and *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones for the three spring Teen Talk Book Club meetings. The Kids' Book Club, for grades 4-6, discussed *Brainboy and the Deathmaster* by Tor Seidler in April under the guidance of Karen Shapiro. In May the choice was *The Trading Game* by Alfred Slote. *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko was the June selection. Joy Hubbard introduced *The Elevator Family* by Douglas Evans to the Lunch Bunch Book Club for first through third graders, accompanied by related crafts and games. Joy will be reorganizing the program for the Fall. She is planning to change the meeting time from noon on Saturday to Wednesday afternoon after school, and to change the focus from book discussion to reading enrichment activities.

On-Going Programs: Mimi Bolotin continues to offer various computer-related classes for the public. In April and May a Microsoft-certified volunteer offered private 45-minute sessions on topics customized to a person's particular needs and interests. In June Mimi started a series of sessions that will run weekly through most of the summer covering a variety of topics.

The Master Gardeners of the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service returned in May to offer gardening advice to the public every Saturday until October. The English Conversation Club continues to meet five times a week. The Upcounty Regional Service Center representative, Jocelyn Brooks Rawat, sets up her desk every Wednesday afternoon to provide knowledgeable information and referral to County services for residents. Volunteers produce a monthly used book sale to supplement the on-going used book sale in the library. The two book sales together bring in about \$600 a month.

The children's librarians – Sue Nichols, Joy Hubbard, Heather Wright, and Karen Shapiro - offer a full selection of children's story times for preschool children every month. Sue Nichols signs any program on request. In addition, volunteers produce three sessions every month of a Penny Theater play, based on a children's book. In all, the Quince Orchard children's staff presented 156 preschool story times in FY05, as well as hosting various family programs, giving library tours, and visiting preschools, daycare centers, and Head Start classes. In May 100 second graders from Rachel Carson ES toured the library, learned about the Summer Reading program, received library cards and checked out books, played "character bingo," and won prizes.

New Programs: In June Micheline Fleurant and Mimi Bolotin started a program new to MCPL, the Spanish Conversation Club. Under the guidance of volunteers who are native speakers, drop-in participants meet weekly in small conversational groups to improve their Spanish fluency. Five native speakers will rotate covering the sessions.

Sue Nichols has started a special program with the Potomac Ridge Behavioral Center, a residential facility affiliated with Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. Sue makes monthly visits to a class of twelve middle-school age boys, who were referred to the program by the Court for juvenile sex offenses. The students live in a residential unit and at this time are cleared for trips outside the facility. Sue presents book talks related to their current unit of study, Odysseus and the Greek myths. She has created a deposit collection for them from gifts and extra copies. At their request, Sue has presented book talks on science fiction, mystery, and adventure novels and

series, and she leaves books for them to read until her next visit. Sue hopes that her outreach efforts will enhance the outlook for their future transition to the outside world by instilling a love of reading and teaching them library skills.

Special Programs: Sue Nichols arranged for the Washington National Opera to provide an opera appreciation workshop for children on May 7th. Docents introduced children in the audience to Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*). Through crafts and activities, the participants explored the ways music communicates plot, character, and emotion.

There were two special cultural programs offered in April. Yuli Estler arranged for Quince Orchard to host, along with Rockville, an Arabic Cultural Show for all ages on April 23rd. There were demonstrations of musical instruments and traditional costumes, an arts and crafts exhibit, henna hand-painting, hands-on crafts, and a storyteller. Over 50 people attended.

Library volunteers produced the fourth annual *Utsav: A Festival of India* program on April 30th. The theme this year was "Festivals," which showcased Tamil, Parsi, Hindu, Punjab, and Islamic holidays and festivals from all over India. Over 100 children and teens participated in producing the program, in addition to several dozen volunteers from the Quince Orchard Friends, LAC, and local Indian community.

Community Day: Every year, the first Saturday after school is out, the Quince Orchard Library celebrates the kick-off to the summer reading program by hosting a big Community Day festival to attract children to the library. This year there will be continuous music on the lawn from the 11:00 am opening to the end at 3:00 pm, provided by two excellent community musical ensembles –Teen banjo player Zach Mongan is back again, as are the Quince Orchard Library Penny Theater Players, Aggregate Industries' antique fire trucks, Chipper the Clown, the Country Bee, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and tables staffed by various Montgomery County government agencies and community groups and clubs. Back by popular demand for the fifth year is Tom Lilly's Magic Show and balloon animals. There will be voter registration, pet adoption, blood mobile, Master Gardeners, and a used book sale. Kids of all ages can enjoy free activities such as a moon bounce, spin art, sno-cones, popcorn, face painting, henna hand-painting, and arts and crafts. Several thousand people typically attend, and regular library service is heroically provided by the stalwart staff in the midst of it all!

New Rockville Library: Construction on the new Rockville Library is on schedule with a contract completion date of June 27, 2006. Some of the steel is up on the town square entrance and the footings for the walls and columns have been completed. The furniture plan will be reviewed and finalized with the architects, the furniture vendor and the library design team at the end of the month. The shelving plan is being reviewed and will be finalized later in the summer.

The Department will be working the Leasing Section of the Department of Public Works and Transportation to find a site for the Collection Management Section (Acquisitions, Cataloging, Collection Development, Processing, and Supporting Services) of the current Rockville Library which will not be moving to the new Rockville Library. The plan is to find a suitable leased space and move this Section before the library administration and Rockville Library move next summer.

Rockville: The Rockville Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Committee continue to grow stronger in anticipation of the new library opening next year. Attendance has increased to an average of 25 each month with active participation from committees on parking, fund raising and programs. Pam Adams has great plans for fund raising. Armed with a list of needs from the staff, she has held strategy meetings with Barbara Harr, former Development officer for the Department of Libraries and Sally Sternbach, Executive Director of Rockville Economic Development, Inc. The parking committee met with County Executive Douglas Duncan, and the program committee has planned a fall series.

Rockville staff members are taking seriously the responsibility to plan a smooth transition to the new library. They have worked with Kathleen Porter, MCPL Training Officer and Karen Plucinski, County Training Officer to develop a series of motivational and informational programs beginning in June. The first, led by Senior Librarian Diane Monnier on managing change and stress, was a tremendous success with active participation by Rockville and Special Needs Library staff. The informational training series will begin in September.

Reference staff members have completed a review and redesign of the Websites for the business section of the homepage. This section is now greatly expanded and has become a business information gateway with broader appeal to the Montgomery County business community. In that effort Senior Librarian Suzanne Carbone is guiding staff to address new areas such as non-profits, the biotech community, mentoring and incubators for start-up businesses. Suzanne organized a focus group to give feedback on the usability of the new website.

Staff members completed a review of periodical holdings and were able to weed seven shelving units of storage. This allowed a relocation of the remaining titles and a shifting of the entire nonfiction collection to provide more space for expansion. Everyone is happy that the circulating collection now has room at the end of all the shelves. The next step with the periodicals is a further review of existing titles and the addition of more popular items more in keeping with the mission of the new library.

A summer intern, Sharon McCarthy, from the University of Maryland is working with Rockville staff this summer. She is designing an expanded volunteer program to be used in the new library. She is currently interviewing staff here and at Special Needs and is doing online and telephone research. Sharon was not at all sure she was interested in public library work, but staff think they are changing her point of view. She has asked if she could stay on as a volunteer once her internship is complete.

Silver Spring and Mobile Services: The Silver Spring's Friends have been very active this quarter. The much anticipated Pulitzer Prize winning author Edward Jones, *The Known World* visited on April 5th. The lecture was an interview format, with Washington Post columnist Jabari Asim asking Mr. Jones questions about his life and writing style. The evening was relaxed and informative, and standing room only. The crowd overflowed into the small meeting room (which had been wired for sound) and into the hallway. This event was co-sponsored by the Silver Spring Friends and Jo Stallworth's Silver Spring African American Book Club.

The next week, the branch hosted the ALA/Woman's Day Magazine's Writer's Workshop. They had people driving from Alexandria and Pennsylvania to attend, with most of the attendance local. Stacy Colino presented a very informative session on how to get published.

The Friends also are working on a "Sprucing up Silver Spring Library" day next fall. They walked through the building and around the grounds, noting jobs that could be done by volunteers. They intend to approach local businesses and schools for help.

The Silver Spring Friends paid for two new display units that are sited next to the Circulation Desk. These purchases were recommended by the Anti-Clutter Committee (Carlos Valderrama, Judy Furash and Susan Levine), when a walk through the building illustrated how cluttered our public service areas are. One unit is designated for the LAC and Silver Spring Friends to use for handouts and program announcements. The other is for book display – and staff find that we must keep it stocked continuously throughout the day. The County Friends' Funds for Libraries money went to purchase a matching display unit that is sited next to the Friends' display unit. This is specifically for branch and systemwide handouts. It is well used.

Judy Furash and Larry Dickter attended the excellent training program on displays. Judy came back with creative ideas for upgrading our children's displays, and sent in photos of several that she and Margarete Levy worked on. Judy was awarded a gift certificate for the Container Store as encouragement to mount eye-catching, and not dull, displays.

A plaque, bench and plantings at the front of the library were dedicated to former Library Manager Ann Irvine at a ceremony in May. The Friends provided light refreshments afterwards.

Susie Andrews presented a talk on how to share books with pre Kindergarten children to the students of Early Childhood Education classes at Prince Georges Community College. She shared reading lists and had a book display for the students. Susie also visited eight preschool Truck Days this spring, and Adam Greene drove the Mobile Van in the Olney Days Parade on May 22nd.

The children's staff has seen continued high attendance at all preschool programs. Judy Furash's Born to Read programs average 39 per program, and she is surprised at how young some of our attendees are – some energetic Moms have managed to attend with two to five week-old babies.

Margaret Levy's Time for Tots programs for ages twos and threes have seen some of the largest crowds – 66 & 77 is typical. Betty Dowling invited the local Y Child Care Center to attend the public Preschool Storytime for three to five year olds, and reports that that group is beginning to grow, as well.

In May, staff hosted two multicultural programs for families. The first was featured dancer/storyteller Sudha Bhagwat, and was part of the Celebrate US series. It drew a rather small audience – flyers were not received until a few days before the program. The second program in May also celebrated Asian Pacific Heritage Month, and featured Filipino culture. This was arranged by Yuli Estler of Multicultural Services.

Judy Furash has added the local Y Child Care Center to her outreach visits. After seeing the 18 month olds, the two to three year olds and a class of young threes, she sends home a letter with the children to their parents encouraging them to read with their children and visit the library.

Silver Spring Library is very proud that two of their staff members, Carlos Valderrama and Susie Andrews, have received departmental awards. Carlos was recognized in the Managerial category, and Susie in the Public Services category. Both awards are well-deserved!

Susie's Van collection is quite adequate. Street Lit is hot, with Zane and the Triple Crown Publications and other Urban Lit creating quite a stir on the Van. Circulation has increased in visits to the day care centers, with the teachers appreciating the board books and tapes especially.

Twinbrook Library Program Report by Jan Baird-Adams

A baby grand piano was donated to the library and has been tuned and repaired. In addition to expanding our Music in the Library Series of programs, our meeting room can now be used for piano recitals and other public programs.

The children's librarians promoted Summer Reading Program at area schools. They spoke to over 600 children encouraging them to read over the summer.

Our Summer Reading Kick-off was great success with a "sell-out" crowd of more than 160 people attending the Rainforests Alive Program. The program featured a live boa constrictor, a crocodile and other animals.

A special "Music Together" program for preschoolers and their parent/caregivers drew nearly 50 people for our culminating Tuesday morning story time in May. These storytimes will resume in September.

Our Monday evening English Conversation Club reports a spike in new members. Most weeks, an average of 23 people are attending. (The Thursday morning club as adjourned until September.)

The Twinbrook Civic Association Garden Club has again created a stunning garden at the front of the library which is admired and enjoyed by all who enter.

White Oak. Adult services staff provided three book discussions in April including *We Were There* by Yvonne Latty for the African-American discussion on April 12th, *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson for the evening group on April 20th and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon for the morning group on April 26th.

During the entire month of May, White Oak hosted the winning photos in Montgomery County's 2005 Amateur Photography contest.

During May, the White Oak children's staff provided nine programs and visits to 264 preschool children and conducted six book talks for 120 children at Cresthaven Elementary School. They handled two visits in and 7 visits out.

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center will soon provide flowers and volunteers to spruce up the front entry area of the library.

The Friends of the Library conducted a membership drive and signed up twelve new members. Funds were approved for two special event programs in support of Summer Reading.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Circulation Services. The Department has collected \$72,393 in online payments through April. \$52,047 of that total represents items that are in the collection agency process.

Staff Development. Germantown Library Manager Maria Pedak-Kari and Wheaton Library Associate Anne Gerlach attended the Maryland Library Association preconference on Assessing Information Needs of the Hispanic (Immigrant) Population. Four additional staff members, who were presenters at the conference, were given funding to attend.

Six circulation specialists attended the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Library Forum in Richmond, Virginia on May 15-17.

A committee of representatives from the various library services met on May 19 with Staff Development Coordinator Kathleen Porter, Acting Olney Library Manager and Sunday Supervisor Barbara McClayton, and Public Services Administrator Rita Gale to discuss and draft the FY06 list of training and meeting dates. The calendar was emailed to all supervisors the end of June, and dates have been posted on the systemwide training and meeting calendar on the Intranet. Mandatory training in FY06 for all staff will include the new Java based Workflows, Staff Development Day (proposed topic is New Technology) and the County's Limited English Proficiency course. Library Assistant Is, Library Desk Assistants and Circulation substitutes will be required to attend the proposed October sessions on Communication, Flexibility and Values based service. Anyone responsible for conducting performance appraisals will have to attend the County's spring 2006 Performance Evaluation Training.

New employee orientation to the Department was held Monday, May 9 with 8 new staff members attending.

White Oak Senior Librarian Jane Greene arranged for the State Library Resource Center to present three training sessions from April through June. Basic Reference was offered at White Oak on April 28 with 9 staff attending, Search Engines & the Invisible Web was offered at Long Branch on May 19 with 12 staff attending, and Reader's Advisory was offered at White Oak on June 2.

Bethesda Librarian Dianne Whitaker and Damascus Head of Information Services Carolyn Silvey have been selected to attend the Maryland Library Leadership Institute July 18-22. The

Institute will be held at the Rivront Conference Center on the Donaldson Brown Estate in Port Deposit, Maryland.

The State Library offered Maryland Library Systems the opportunity to register staff this spring for a three part series called Library Ambassadors. These workshops were designed to support library staff to best represent their library system while working on community projects. Susan Modak, Early Reading First representative and staff member at Aspen Hill attended the Podium Presentation Skills session on May 25 at the Glenwood Library. Damascus Librarian Chris Lundy, Staff Development Coordinator Kathleen Porter, and Susan attended the Networking Skills session on June 15 in Annapolis. Chris, Susan, and White Oak Library Manager Dave Muse will attend the Reaching Out: Time Efficient Strategies for Working with Community Partners on July 12 in Columbia. We have several additional staff on wait list to attend this third program in the series.

Noyes Children's Librarian Janet Bock taught a workshop on presenting early literacy information for parents and caregivers, based on the PLA and Maryland State Department of Education models, on May 25th to 17 participants from throughout the system.

Four trainers offered 24 sessions of Graphic Standards Training to more than 90 participants during the period March through May, 2005. Most of the training was conducted in individual branches, with multiple staff from those branches registered to attend.

Former Early Childhood Coordinator Saroj Ghoting presented Early Literacy Basics to nine new children's staff members and supervisors on April 21. She also did a refresher presentation on the topic to 57 children's staff members at the all J staff meeting on April 20th.

Eight staff attended Baltimore County's Great Books Celebration on April 6th at the Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore. Gordon Korman, popular author for children and teens was the featured speaker, and attendees had an opportunity to participate in three group sharing sessions during the day for either picture books, juvenile or teen reading.

Sixteen staff members attended the Children's Celebration of Literature on Saturday April 16th at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College. The one-day conference featured talks by Jerry Pinkney, illustrator and author of more than 100 books for children, inspirational writer Gloria Pinkney, Patti Lee Gauch, Editorial Director and Vice President of Philomel, and Joseph Lekuton, author of *Facing the Lion*, an autobiography that details his life from Maasi warrior in Kenyan to middle school social studies teacher in Virginia.

Technology Management. The County's Department of Telecommunications Services (DTS) had an additional 90 PCs which they provided for our Public PC replacement project. Tech Management staff completed installations the week of June 20th. The remaining older model PCs (GX110s and below) should be replaced in FY06.

Scott Kegley upgraded the circulation system and catalog was completed over the Memorial Day weekend. The upgrade of the hardware was done Saturday evening through Sunday morning. Scott Kegley, Rita Gale, and Circulation Manager Cathy Greulich visited each branch on Sunday

and Monday morning to ‘execute’ the upgrade file on every staff PC and then login to Workflows. We have used various methodologies over the last five years to download the upgrade to individual staff workstations (including bringing branch staff in on rolling schedules, copying the necessary files over the network to the local PCs, and having branches login in the first day after the upgrade on a rotating schedule). Because the initial login after an upgrade takes so long (30 minutes per PC was the average during the Memorial Day onsite visits), Public Services and Tech Management staff make an effort to complete the upgrade by doing the initial login on branch PCs as part of the holiday upgrade activities. Customization work on the catalog was done by TM staff member Ana Rita Puertas-Meyers on Memorial Day Monday. While there were a number of “problems” identified by staff on the first day after the upgrade, all but one was resolved by the end of the holiday week. The public did not have access to the catalog until Wednesday, June 1.

The procedure for booking a laptop and LCD for library training or presentations was transferred to the Tech Management unit this spring. Staff now uses an Outlook calendar to book the equipment.

Work is currently underway to move most of the Central staff PCs from the library department’s domain to the County’s domain. This will have the benefit of allowing staff to have one login, which will provide access to both the PC and their Outlook account, and will also ensure that the PCS receive automatic security patches and virus upgrades. Central staff will still save and access their documents and files on the library’s server.

Telephones: New telephones systems are in the final planning stages for installation in all of the branches with old systems (Aspen Hill, Chevy Chase, Damascus, Fairland, Gaithersburg, Kensington Park, Little Falls, Noyes, Olney, Poolesville, Silver Spring, and White Oak). These new systems will better serve both the internal and external customers. Telecommunications is working with Barbara Norland and Aspen Hill Library Manager Nancy Savas as the first site to create a configuration and service model for the remaining branches. Aspen Hill is expected to have the new system by mid-June.